

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims includes a complete listing of both allowed claims and amended claims and will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to cause a computing system to perform a method comprising:
 - creating a data table in a server database;
 - creating a workflow table as part of a database schema in the server database, the workflow table is associated with the data table, each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step containing workflow events that include at least one timeout event, workflow rules and associated code defined by script functions;
 - receiving a data modification request in the server database;
 - invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and
 - evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step.
3. (Previously presented): The method of claim 2, evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step includes using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

4. (Currently amended): A workflow system comprising:
- a server database that includes a data table and an associated workflow table, the data table includes workflow triggers, the workflow table comprises at least part of an extended database schema and includes a plurality of workflow steps triggerable by at least one workflow event that comprises a timeout event;
 - a workflow extended store coupled to the server database and to the workflow triggers, the workflow triggers invoke the workflow extended store;
 - a workflow engine coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and
 - a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.
5. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, the workflow table is communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.
6. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, each column in the data table comprises a workflow state.
7. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step.
8. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, the workflow table comprises a set of workflow rules and associated code to be executed by the workflow engine, a workflow table is defined for each data table that needs to enforce integrity of data changes.
9. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, the extended store comprises a data set having the necessary information to enforce a workflow step.

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

10. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4, the workflow engine receives information on a workflow event from the extended store and maps the information against a cached copy of the workflow table and executes an appropriate workflow step.

11. (Currently amended): A workflow system comprising:

a server database that includes a workflow enabled data table and an associated workflow table, the workflow table is part of an extended database schema, each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step triggered by a workflow event comprising at least a timeout event, and the workflow enabled data table includes workflow triggers;

a workflow extended store coupled to the server database, where data modifications submitted to the workflow enabled data table invokes the workflow extended store;

a workflow engine coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and

a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.

12. (Currently amended): The workflow system of claim 11, ~~each workflow step is triggered by a~~ the workflow event selected from the group comprising state events[[.]] and transition events, and timeout events.

13. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 12, a state event is associated with a single workflow state and is executed every time the event associated with the workflow state is triggered.

14. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 13, the execution of a state event depends on how a workflow state is entered or exited.

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

15. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 12, a transition event is associated with a change from a current workflow state to a new workflow state, the current and the new workflow states are defined by a transition workflow step, and the transition event is executed upon a requested state transition where the current and the new workflow state match the transition workflow step.

16. (Currently amended): The workflow system of claim [[12]] 11, [[a]] the timeout event is associated with a timeout job, the timeout event can be either a state event or a transition event, and the timeout event is triggered by the timeout job.

17. (Currently amended): A workflow system comprising:

a server database that includes a data table and an associated workflow table, the workflow table is included in a database schema, each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step, and the system further includes workflow triggers defined on the data table;

a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database, the workflow triggers analyze a data modification request submitted to the data table and invoke the extended store;

a timeout agent implemented as a server job, the timeout agent scheduled to run with a definable frequency, and the timeout agent scans the server database and executes a timeout workflow event when the database indicates such a timeout workflow event is due;

a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and

a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 17, further includes a session object communicatively coupled to the server database, the session object

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

comprises a set of properties for a workflow event, a set of data on the current user, a database user list, and a data set of user permission.

20. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 19, further includes a number of workflow support functions which operate in conjunction with the session object and implement a number of workflow tasks including sending email and finding a user's manager.

21. (Cancelled):

22. (Currently amended): The workflow system of claim [[21]] 17, the timeout agent performs an update in the data table and triggers an association workflow action upon timeout workflow events which define a state transition.

23. (Currently amended): A computing method comprising:

creating a data table in a server database;

creating a workflow table as part of an extended database schema in the server database, the workflow table is associated with the data table, each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step that includes at least one timeout event associated with a timeout job, the timeout event including a state event and a transition event, the timeout event triggered by the timeout job;

receiving a data modification request in the server database;

invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and

evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.

24. (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, invoking the workflow engine includes comparing the data modification request with a workflow definition in the workflow table and determining the appropriate workflow step to be executed.

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

25. (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes checking execution permissions on each workflow step.

26. (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, creating a workflow table with each row in the workflow table representing a workflow step includes defining a condition and an action for each workflow step using script functions.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes committing the data modification request to the data table in the server database.

29. (Currently amended): A computer comprising:

- a processor;
- a computer-readable medium;
- a server database having a workflow enabled data table and an associated workflow table, the workflow enabled data table includes workflow triggers, each workflow trigger instigated by at least one workflow event that includes a timeout event, the timeout event associated with at timeout job that instigates the workflow trigger, the workflow table comprises at least part of an extended database schema;
- a workflow extended store coupled to the server database and the workflow triggers;
- a workflow engine coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and
- a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.

30 – 39 (Cancelled).